

The expression "reproductive and perinatal health" refers in this chapter to a variety of health and sociodemographic characteristics of women who became pregnant, factors related to the course of their pregnancies and the status of pregnancy outcomes. In this report, pregnancies are measured as the sum of three components: **live births**, **spontaneous terminations of pregnancy** (fetal deaths or stillbirths) and **induced terminations of pregnancy** (abortions).

1A. PREGNANCIES BY PREGNANCY OUTCOME, ETHNICITY AND AGE GROUP

TOTAL PREGNANCIES

There were 91,761 pregnancies in Arizona in 1999 compared to 93,148 in 1998, a decrease of 1.5 percent. The decrease in the number of pregnancies was primarily due to a 27 percent decline in the number of reported abortions from 14,606 in 1998 to 10,656 in 1999. In contrast, the number of live births increased by 3.3 percent from 77,940 in 1998 to 80,505 in 1999. The 1999 pregnancy rate of 87.7 pregnancies per 1,000 females of childbearing age (15-44 years) was the lowest rate of the 1989-1999 period (**Table 1A-1**).

PREGNANCY OUTCOMES BY ETHNIC GROUP

Among the pregnancies in 1999, 80,505 or 87.7 percent resulted in a live birth, 10,656 or 11.6 percent in an abortion and 600 or 0.65 percent in a fetal death. Among American Indian female residents of Arizona, 94.6 percent of pregnancies resulted in a live birth and 4.5 percent were induced terminations of pregnancy. Black and non-Hispanic white females had lower percentages of pregnancies resulting in a live birth, 84.2 and 87.8 percent, respectively. Among Hispanic females, 91.3 percent of pregnancies resulted in a live birth and 8.6 percent were induced terminations of pregnancy (**Table 1A-1**, **Table 1A-6**).

PREGNANCY RATES BY ETHNIC GROUP

Among non-Hispanic white female residents of Arizona, the 1999 pregnancy rate was 67.0. The pregnancy rate for Hispanic females was 132.5 or 2 times the rate for white non-Hispanics (**Figure 1A-1**, **Table 1A-1**). American Indian females had the second highest rate among ethnic groups (88.2), followed by Arizona's Black females (75.6). Approximately one in every fifteen white non-Hispanic females ages 15-44 became pregnant in 1999 compared to two in every fifteen Hispanic females.

TEEN PREGNANCIES

The pregnancy rate for Arizona teenagers 15-19 years old in 1999 was 73 pregnancies per 1,000 females (**Figure 1A-2**), 9.1 percent lower than in 1998 and 28.4 percent lower than in

1994 when it reached its recent peak of 102/1,000. The pregnancy rate for females aged 15 and younger declined by 60.9 percent from a high of 2.3/1,000 in 1994 to 0.9/1,000 in 1999 (**Figure 1A-3**). The pregnancy rate for all females aged 19 and younger declined by 26.8 percent from 49.3/1,000 in 1994 to 36.1 in 1999 (**Table 1A-5**). The latter was the lowest teen pregnancy rate in the State since 1980*.

Among the two major components of the pregnancy rate, the number of births to females 19 years or younger remained virtually unchanged since 1998 (9,793 and 9,775 births respectively) (**Table 1A-5**). In contrast, the number of reported abortions among teens declined by 25.2 percent from 2,735 in 1998 to 2,046 in 1999 (**Figure 1A-4, Table 1A-5**).

TEEN PREGNANCY RATES BY ETHNIC GROUP

The pregnancy rates of Hispanic, Black and American Indian teenagers exceeded the corresponding rates of Asian and non-Hispanic white females in every age group in 1999. Hispanic teenage females continued to have the highest age-specific pregnancy rates among all ethnic groups, followed by Blacks, American Indians, white non-Hispanics and Asians (**Figure 1A-5**). Among girls aged 17 and younger, the 1999 pregnancy rate was 3.9 times greater for Hispanics (30.1) than non-Hispanic whites (7.8, **Table 1A-2**). Among females 18-19 years old, the Hispanic to white non-Hispanic differential in pregnancy rates was 2.9 times (215.5 vs. 74.6, **Table 1A-4**) in 1999.

TRENDS IN TEEN PREGNANCIES

Between 1980 and 1999, pregnancy rates declined for all age, race and Hispanic origin populations (**Figure 1A-6**), with the steepest decline recorded for white non-Hispanic teens. In contrast, Hispanic females aged 19 and younger were the only group for whom the 1999 pregnancy rate of 66.1/1,000 was not significantly lower than the 1990 rate of 68.8/1,000 and, in fact, it exceeded the 1980 rate of 59.1/1,000.

Hispanics, who accounted for approximately 26 percent of all females 19 or younger in Arizona in 1999, made a significantly higher proportional contribution to teen pregnancies (47.9 percent) and live births (52.8 percent). In contrast, white non-Hispanic females who accounted for 58.7 percent of all teens in Arizona had a much lower proportional representation among teen pregnancies (34.2 percent) and live births (31 percent).

In 1999, the pregnancy rate of 40.2/1,000 among adolescent girls 15-17 years old in Arizona was for the first time 10.7 percent lower than the **Arizona 2000**** objective of 45/1,000 (**Table 1A-3**).

*Teen pregnancy rates for 1980-1990 were published in a report **Teenage Pregnancy, Arizona 1990**. Phoenix: Arizona Department of Health Services 1991.

****Arizona 2000: Plan for a Healthy Tomorrow**. Phoenix: Arizona Department of Health Services. November 1993